

## Virginia Department of Health Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report April 10, 2006

### **WORLDWIDE UPDATE**

#### **Human disease:**

- The total number of cases confirmed by the World Health Organization since the outbreak began in 2003 is 191, including 108 deaths (56.5%).
- Human cases have occurred in the following countries: Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey, and Viet Nam. Four of those countries reported their first human cases in 2006: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iraq, and Turkey.
- Reported events since March 20:
  - March 21: Azerbaijan reported that of 11 patients tested, 7 were confirmed to be positive for the H5N1 influenza virus. This included 5 deaths. Four of the deaths occurred among a family/close friend cluster. Direct contact with ill birds has not been confirmed, but dead swans were found in the area.
  - March 24: Cambodia confirmed its 5<sup>th</sup> human case. A 3 year old died from an illness that occurred after playing with ill chickens in the backyard. China confirmed its 16<sup>th</sup> human case. This case was the first reported from Shanghai, and the person died from the disease.
  - March 29: Egypt confirmed its 2<sup>nd</sup> fatal case, which occurred in a 30 year old following the home slaughter of chickens. Egypt has not reported 5 cases, 4 of which were confirmed by a WHO lab on April 3. All of the ill individuals worked with poultry; two died.
  - April 4: Indonesia confirmed its 30<sup>th</sup> case. The case occurred in a 20 month old and was fatal. Deaths had been observed among chicken flocks near the home.
  - On April 6, the WHO updated the status of avian flu in two countries. Egyptian health authorities have now confirmed 11 human cases of H5N1 infection. Three of these cases were fatal. In a pattern similar to that seen elsewhere, all case have occurred in children and young adults, and all have a history of close contact with dead or diseased poultry. Cambodia reported its 6th case, in a 12 year old boy who died from the disease. Numerous chicken and duck deaths had been noted in his neighborhood.

#### **Animal disease:**

- Since March 20, animals have tested positive for the H5N1 influenza virus in the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Georgia, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, and Turkey.

**VDH ACTIVITIES.** VDH filed an application budget and workplan for Phase I \$2.291 million supplemental pandemic influenza funding allocated to Virginia. The primary focus of the workplan is to continue pandemic flu planning at the regional/local levels through district coordinated summits, workshops, education, training and media campaigns. A representative cross-section of preparation activities from around the Commonwealth follows:

- **Alexandria**
  - Mayor and Health Director sponsored a luncheon for the Mayor's Pandemic Flu Working Group and its Subject Matter Groups, comprised of more than fifty people from city agencies and community organizations.
  - Quarantine and Isolation Subject Matter Group met with local judges and are putting in place the procedures to be implemented if a quarantine order is issued. Also, the Public Health Emergency Planner met with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Quarantine and Isolation Committee to continue region-wide planning efforts.
  - Public Subject Matter Group has developed templates and materials for use and distribution pending funding availability.
  - Fatality Management Subject Matter Group, including representatives from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and from local mortuaries, has developed draft plan for the management of fatalities.
  - Medical and Public Health Surge Subject Matter Group had its initial meeting with area hospitals.

- Behavioral Health Subject Matter Group has attended two outside seminars and is working with the Public Subject Matter Group.
- Transportation Subject Matter Group met with local bus services.
- **Eastern Shore**
  - Met with hospital representatives and newly formed Eastern Shore Coalition on Emergency Management.
  - Published Draft Pandemic Flu Plan and task checklist.
  - Scheduling a Health Fair for later this month, and a local Flu Summit by August.
  - Made presentation to the medical community on pandemic influenza at the local high school.
  - Distributed surveys to local physicians to assess their levels of interest in pandemic influenza planning.
- **Lord Fairfax**
  - Health Director scheduled to brief the Frederick County Board of Supervisors.
  - Coordinating activities with and providing VDH preparation materials to Valley Health System, Lord Fairfax Emergency Medical Services Council.
  - Presented information on Avian Influenza, Seasonal Influenza and Pandemic Influenza at a public meeting in Woodstock arranged by the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors.
- **Prince William**
  - Met with the Juvenile Detention Center regarding PanFlu planning.
  - Completed needs assessment and identified PanFlu contacts.
  - Scheduling a meeting with Lockheed Martin for PanFlu planning, encouraging them to take the lead in planning with the local business community.
  - Initial PanFlu grant budget completed.
  - Hispanic outreach project in development to determine methods of communication to best reach this population in an emergency.
- **Peninsula**
  - Health Director provided a PanFlu presentation at the General Medical Staff Meeting of Mary Immaculate Hospital.
  - Promoted newly established Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
  - Established local Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee and are actively recruiting members.
  - Performed Needs Assessment for pandemic flu planning as well as for physician training needs.
  - Scheduled meetings with Danville Local Emergency Committee, Rural Citizen Corps, Neighborhood Watch Group, Danville Regional Medical Center, Danville and Pittsylvania County Emergency Managers and Community Health Center personnel.
  - Developed contact lists of all physicians and all day care centers.
- **Virginia Beach**
  - Met with family practice and pediatrics physicians at their regularly scheduled Primary Care Conference to address PanFlu planning initiatives.
  - Planning to provide training for the private physicians' office staff.
  - Developing presentations to professional groups. Presentations already scheduled at Sentara Bayside Hospital for the Breakfast CME Program and a Princess Anne Rotary Club meeting.
  - Exploring the possibility of appearing on the Sentara Health Program and other TV health programs.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
  - Presented Virginia's pandemic flu summit information to the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Committee teleconference.
  - Met with Sullivan County (TN) Regional Health Department Director, Lenowisco and Mount Rogers District Health Directors, to coordinate and facilitate a Far Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee pandemic flu summit.
  - Reporting three calls from district individuals requesting testing for the avian influenza virus on a dead robin, 2 dead chickens, and one adult with influenza-like symptoms
- **Rappahannock-Rapidan**
  - Submitted plan and budget for district use of Pandemic Flu Supplemental Funding.
  - Delivered Pandemic Flu videos to Fauquier County Schools.
  - Provided Avian Flu presentation to the public at Fauquier hospital (80 attendees).
- **Fairfax**

- The structure of the Fairfax County pandemic flu planning initiative includes an executive team, a leadership team, two coordinating committees (public health, and critical infrastructure and resource management) and several work groups to address all issues of planning, response and community recovery. Work groups were established by the Health Department to address the range of issues associated with the public health aspects of a pandemic.
  - Communications and Notifications:
    - Updated Health Department Pandemic Flu Website.
    - Pandemic Flu Information Hotline updated.
    - New Fairfax County Pandemic Influenza Website designed and launched.
    - Letter to over 3000 community physicians in the county describing County's efforts to prepare for a pandemic and provided the Checklist for Medical Offices and Clinics.
    - Taped a segment for county's television channel on pandemic influenza to target general population readiness.
    - Broad advertising of televised (call-in) County Town Hall meeting for all residents.
    - Scheduled Grand Rounds at INOVA to present to physicians on Pandemic Influenza and preparedness.
    - Scheduled HD physicians and staff to speak at community associations.
    - Business Summit scheduled for May 26, 2006.
  - Surge Planning:
    - Met with key physicians involved with healthcare surge planning at INOVA hospital.
    - Participated in the Disaster Preparedness Committee monthly meeting of the INOVA healthcare system.
    - Surge Tabletop exercise conducted in February with all partners (EMS, hospitals, military, OEM.)
  - Anti-viral and Vaccine Distribution:
    - Reviewed the health departments mass dispensing site plans and identified adjustments that would be required for dispensing anti-virals or vaccines in a pandemic.
    - Developed a survey for industry sectors, i.e. home health care, EMS, hospitals, community physicians to identify the numbers of "tier one eligible" personnel for pharmaceuticals and to begin on sub-grouping within categories.
    - Developing mailing databases for each of those sectors.
    - Began discussions with the INOVA health care system's physician responsible for emergency preparedness regarding the need for the hospitals to prepare their internal strategy for use of limited antiviral medications.
    - Developed a mailing for Long-term care facilities that outlines the importance of continuing seasonal influenza vaccinations for their residents and employees and provided strategies to increase the rate of vaccinations.
  - Essential Needs:
    - Developed Home Isolation Assessment Tool to determine the need for resources/services.
    - Developing a Mental Health Plan. This includes consideration of community assistance via public hot-line/phone in addition to County's Community Services Board
    - The County has separate contracts for prescription drugs and is working on details related to OTC medication purchases.
    - Fairfax County Public Schools identified means of distributing food and meals to residents in need utilizing current distribution network, partially relying on volunteer help
    - Addressed volunteer issues. Department of Family Services has a core volunteer group in the Agency on Aging. Consider partnering with other agencies and using MRC.
  - Chesapeake
    - Initiated PanFlu planning coordination with Chesapeake General Hospital.
    - Efforts underway for posting PanFlu information on district web site.
  - Central Virginia
    - District staff is working on a district-wide pan flu summit, modeled on the state-wide summit. Planning is coordinated with the office of Delegate Shannon Valentine. Planning partners include CentraHealth and Lynchburg College.
    - Secretary Tavenner has agreed to speak on May 16, 2006. The summit is expected to involve about 100 community stakeholders.
    - Developing resource packets for areas of interest (schools, colleges, etc).

- **Henrico**
  - Established local PanFlu Planning Group.
  - Coordinated planning with Henrico Doctors' Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians.
  - Conducted additional healthcare coordination with Colonial VA Chapter, American Society of Safety Engineers, Virginia Occupational Health Nurses Association, Masonic Home of Virginia, Henrico Medical Reserve Corps, American Home Healthcare Agency, Pharmacy Dispensing Partners, and Old Dominion Emergency Medical Services Association.
  - Engaged local government, community, civic and volunteer organizations to include Volunteer Rescue Stations, Social Services, Public Schools, Emergency Management, Planning, Health Department, Red Cross, Fire, Sheriff, UASI contractor, Richmond International Airport Commission, Chief Nurse & PIO of Henrico Schools, Skipwith United Methodist Church - Mothers of Pre-Schoolers, Henrico North Rotary Club, Richmond Metro Retail Merchants Association.
- **Hampton**
  - Met with City of Hampton Safety Committee to address Pandemic Flu preparation. All members provided a copy of the VDH Pandemic Flu DVD.
  - The VDH Eastern Region is preparing to sponsor and conduct a PanFlu informational summit.